

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
17 July 2003 (17.07.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/058553 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06K 9/00**,
9/36, H05G 1/60, G09B 19/00, G06T 15/00, 17/00, G09G
5/00, G06F 19/00

(74) Agents: **HYNES, William, M. et al.**; Townsend and
Townsend and Crew LLP, Two Embarcadero Center, 8th
Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111-3834 (US).

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/40641

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE,
SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ,
VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date:
18 December 2002 (18.12.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/343,975 27 December 2001 (27.12.2001) US

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK,
TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA**, as represented by **THE SECRETARY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES** [US/US]; 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite
325, Rockville, MD 20852 (US).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:
— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*

Published:
— *with international search report*

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **IODANESCU,**
Gheorghe [RO/US]; 5531 Halpine Place, #102, Rockville,
MD 20851 (US). **SUMMERS, Ronald** [US/US]; 10935
Bells Ridge Dr., Potomac, MD 20854 (US). **CEBRAL,**
Juan, Raul [AR/US]; 1701 Tyvale Ct., Vienna, VA 22182
(US).

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
11 December 2003

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: AUTOMATED CENTERLINE DETECTION ALGORITHM FOR COLON-LIKE 3D SURFACES

(57) Abstract: A three dimensional image of the colon like surface is processed to determine at least its ring structure. The image is composed of vertex points, each vertex point having a discrete point identifier and three dimensional position information. The three dimensional position information is averaged in a shrinking procedure to contract the three dimensional image proximate to a major axis of the colon-like surface. Evenly spaced points are taken through the shrunken colon like surface and connected to form a curve. Planes are generated at intervals normal to the curve to split the shrunken colon like surface into image segments. By mapping these image segments back to the original image through their discrete point identifiers, an accurate ring profile of the colon like surface can be generated.

WO 03/058553 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/40641

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER												
IPC(7) : G06K 9/00, 9/36; H05G 1/60; G09B 19/00; G06T 15/00, 17/00; G09G 5/00; G06F 19/00 US CL : 382/128, 131, 276, 285, 291; 378/4, 21, 22; 600/425; 434/272, 257; 345/419, 420, 621, 622; 700/98 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC												
B. FIELDS SEARCHED												
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 382/128, 131, 276, 285, 291; 378/4, 21, 22; 600/425; 434/272, 257; 345/419, 420, 621, 622; 700/98												
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched												
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)												
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT												
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.										
X	US 5,920,319 A (VINING ET AL.) 06 July 1999 (06.07.1999), the whole document.	1-12										
X	US 5,782,762 A (VINING) 21 July 1998 (21.07.1998), the whole document.	1-12										
X	WO 9832371 A1 (JOHNSON ET AL.) 30 July 1998 (30.07.1998), the whole document.	1-12										
X	US 5,971,767 A (KAUFMAN ET AL.) 26 October 1999 (26.10.1999), the whole document.	1-12										
A	US 5,728,044 A (SHAN) 17 March 1998 (17.03.1998), the whole document.	1-12										
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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed												
Date of the actual completion of the international search 19 April 2003 (19.04.2003)		Date of mailing of the international search report 08 AUG 2003										
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230		Authorized officer Shervin Nakhjavan Telephone No. 703 305-3900										